



Active Learning in Mathematics

Learning Math is not a spectator sport. The only way to learn is to participate. You must actively involve yourself in your learning, make the necessary effort, and understand that patience and perseverance go hand in hand with learning. Don't be satisfied with vague ideas about how to work problems. You have to try the examples yourself and make sure you understand the concept illustrated in class.

The student must be responsible for his/her learning.

You must devote the time necessary to schoolwork.



Going to class and watching the teacher model problems isn't enough.

You must:

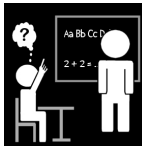
- Watch and listen. Sometimes the teacher says more than she writes down. You must listen carefully to miss nothing.



- Take careful notes. You have to be able to understand them later when you look at them again. Your notes help you to remember how to work the Math problems you saw in class.



- Ask questions if you don't understand and also listen to the questions asked by your classmates.

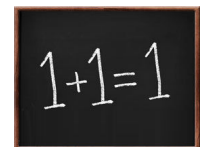


- Practice the questions on your own as soon as possible before you forget.
- Use the text and the notes you took in class to help you practice the questions.

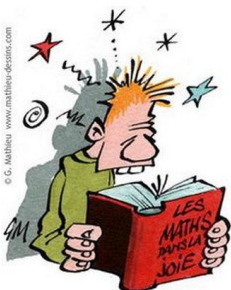
- Practice practice practice. If needed, do more questions than assigned until you feel confident in answering that type of question.



- Learn from your mistakes in homework on on tests. Compare each of your answers carefully with the answers given. Be sure that you know how to answer each question correctly.



- Be persistent. Some concepts in Math are more important than others. Seek individual help as needed. Don't give up!

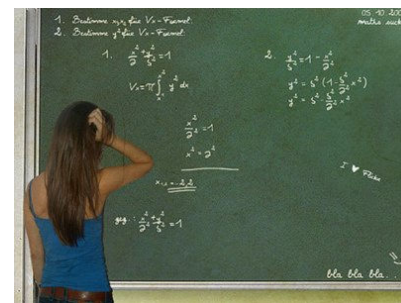




Learning, like lots of other activities, involves a complex group of skills that need practice. For example, if you want to become a good basketball player, you need to learn to dribble, pass, shoot, rebound, be a team player, etc. and skills repeatedly to individuals to improve. Similarly,

learning Math consists of developing and learning a complex set of processes and skills, such as the adoption of a positive attitude, estimation and mental math, solving problems, the use of mathematical reasoning, communication using mathematical language, the application of mathematical concepts and their correlations, etc, which must be practiced for you to become a capable Math student.

You have to practice these skills repeatedly to individual to improve them!



It's not how smart students are but **how motivated they are** and **how they study** that determines their growth in math achievement. That's the main finding of a new study that appears in the journal *Child Development*.